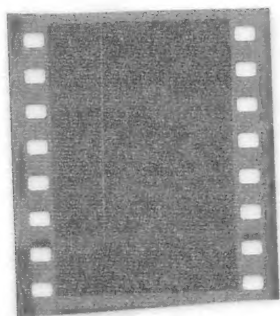


Harold & Velma
Allison Olsen





River Otter Life History

The Division of Wildlife Resources river otter reintroduction program on the Green River below Flaming Gorge Reservoir has prompted many questions about these playful members of the weasel family. Here is a brief life history of these fascinating animals:

Life Cycle

Litter size has been reported from one to six but most litters are two or three pups. The pups are born blind, toothless and totally helpless. They grow rapidly and emerge from their den at about two months after they emerge.

- (e) Point of Diversion: South 100
- (d) Diverter from: Unnamed Spring
- (c) Quantified claimed: 0.25 c.f.s.
- (b) Interest claimed: 100%
- (a) Claimant: East Park Company

Claim No. 2177

water claims described as follows:
the change application, and the four
sent by the exchange application,
of the water and other rights repre-

An undivided nine percent (9%)
EXHIBIT "A"
made a part hereof.
tached hereto and by this reference
rights described in Exhibit "A" at-
Also together with the water
property of Granee.
existing roadway from the county
highway east of the property to the
line ingress and egress over the

Forage

Otters feed predominately on fish but crustaceans and amphibians can play a substantial role in an otter's diet. Given the opportunity, otters will also prey on birds, mammals and reptiles. Otters are generally considered beneficial to trout streams because studies have shown otters prey mostly on the slower moving, less desirable fish rather than on the trout.

Behavior

The playful behaviors otters are known for are mostly seen in the young. The adults do play but only occasionally. These playful behaviors, such as chasing each other, are essential for the young otters to develop coordination and to tone their fishing and survival skills.

Fur

The otter depends on the insulative qualities of its fur to keep it warm, unlike whales and seals which have a layer of blubber to insulate them from the cold. The fur has two layers a short, dense, soft underfur and a longer, stiffer protective outerfur. The combination traps air to insulate the body when the otter submerges. An otter must constantly clean its fur to maintain its insulative quality.

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